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A publication of *The Washi*

MAY 30-JUNE 5

May 30-June 2 | Washington Nationals vs. Atlanta Braves June 3-5 | vs. Florida Marlins

Smooth Talker

Why Brian Schneider is a pitcher's best friend | 4



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PLUS: SCORECARD | 8



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(off the) Field*

* 5 Minutes With: Marlon Byrd

OUTFIELDER MARLON BYRD went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs on May 16 — his first game as a member of the Washington Nationals after being traded by the Philadelphia Phillies for Endy Chavez.

What's it like getting traded to a new team in the middle of the season?

It'd be tough if I didn't know anyone. I've been in the league, so I know some of the guys. You don't have that many guys that you're tight with right away, but I know it's a great group.

You were a highly recruited running back in football. What sport do you like better?

I didn't like football at all. We always lost. We didn't have a good team and it was no fun.

What does it feel like to take a big hit as a running back?

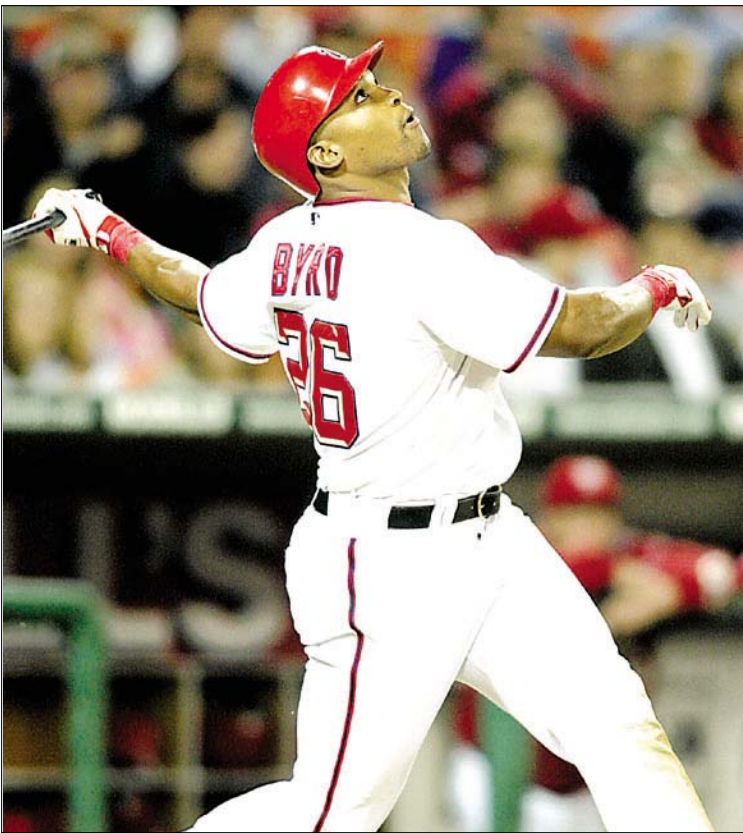
It's one of those things that you really don't feel until the next day. You get hit hard during the game, you're not even thinking about.

If you could be commissioner of baseball for a day, what's the first thing you'd do?

Bud [Selig] is doing a great job. It's a tough job and I think he's handled it very well. He came out with a new policy on steroids and I think that was great.

Who was one of your heroes when you were a kid?

Dale Murphy. I'm from Atlanta so he's a big-time hero of mine. I love



JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

“You don't have that many guys you're tight with right away.”

the Atlanta Braves and when I was little Dale Murphy was someone that I always wanted to be like.

Name an athlete in another sport who you root for now.

[Quarterback] Quincy Carter. We grew up together and played together at 16, 17 and 18. He's having a tough time now. Growing pains. If he was a regular person, nobody would ever know about it. But he's Quincy Carter so everyone in the world knows about it. But I know what kind of person he is. He's a great guy and he's a guy that I root for.

What's your favorite junk food?
Oatmeal, chocolate chip and walnut cookies. GARY KARTON

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	TB	SB	CS	SF	SH	HBP	SLG	AVG
265	913	136	250	44	6	0	6	5	345	13	5	6	6	15	.378	.274

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Washington Nationals | ACTIVE ROSTER



19 Ryan Church

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.299	3	15	.346



7 Brad Wilkerson

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.275	3	17	.348



6 Jose Guillen

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.300	10	27	.335



15 Cristian Guzman

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.185	1	6	.228



2 Jamey Carroll

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.275	0	4	.343



9 Vinny Castilla

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.286	4	25	.364



24 Nick Johnson

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.311	7	25	.422

BENCH		BA	HR	RBI	OBP
5	Carlos Baerga, INF	.235	0	2	.278
29	Gary Bennett, C	.240	0	7	.286
28	Tony Blanco, UTIL	.250	1	5	.276
26	Marlon Byrd, OF	.351	0	6	.422
1	Tyrell Godwin, OF	.000	0	0	.000
54	Brendan Harris, IF	.429	1	3	.429



23 Brian Schneider

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.238	2	11	.299

← **Manager** Frank Robinson
1B Coach Don Buford
Hitting Coach Tom McCraw

Bench Coach Eddie Rodriguez
Pitching Coach Randy St. Claire
3B Coach Dave Huppert

OUTSIDE THE LINES

The Nationals continue to tweak their lineup as injuries take a toll:

- The addition of **C.J. Nitkowski** gives the Nationals the left-handed reliever they were lacking once **Joey Eischen** broke his arm earlier this season.
- Pitcher **Zach Day**, who's struggled all season, was sent to Triple-A New Orleans on May 26.
- How injured are the Nationals? The team has a league-high 10 players on the disabled list.

Starting Pitchers

Livan Hernandez | **61**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
7-2	3.70	50	1.38



Esteban Loaiza | **21**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-3	3.53	48	1.28

Tony Armas | **36**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-2	5.49	6	1.22

Tomo Ohka | **34**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
3-3	3.71	16	1.26

Sunny Kim | **31**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	0	0.00

The Bullpen

Chad Cordero | **32**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-1	0.86	21	1.19



Luis Ayala | **56**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-3	2.79	15	1.10

52 T.J. Tucker

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	0.00	2	0.94

46 C.J. Nitkowski

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	0	0.00

38 Gary Majewski

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	1.37	8	1.12

48 Hector Carrasco

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	2.19	6	1.14



Batboy John Kolker takes a break from his busy schedule: "It's like a track meet," he says.

(Notes) This Batboy's Having a Ball

He arrives at the stadium three hours before game time. He prepares the dugout and the bullpen for the players ...

by supplying towels, filling the Gatorade, restocking the gum (Gatorade Quench Gum, Bazooka and Big Red) and sunflower seeds (ranch, barbecue and original).

He checks the lineup, then collects extra bats for the starters in case one breaks during the game.

Now he moves to the clubhouse. He sits on a stool and rubs down two dozen brand new, perfectly white baseballs with a thin layer of mud.

"Working hands," he says, showing his calluses.

Then comes the part that makes it all worthwhile. He puts on the uniform. Identical to the one the players wear. "It makes me feel official. It's cool every time," he says.

He is the batboy for the Washington Nationals. His name is John Kolker, a graduating senior at George Washington University. He's studying English, Spanish and acting when he's not dodging batting practice line drives.

You see him as much as any player throughout a game, but you rarely notice him. He's running, always running. To the plate after each at bat, to the umpire between innings with a new collection of baseballs, to the bullpen for the pitcher's jacket,

to the mound to replace the rosin bag.

"It's like a track meet," he says.

Kolker started his career as a batboy by working on the grounds crew for the Orioles as a senior project in high school. "It's the closest I'll ever get to be a major leaguer," he says with pride.

After the game Kolker is hard at work in the clubhouse. "This is the part of the job the fans don't see," he says as he cleans shoes and helmets, folds towels, does laundry, dumps Gatorade, organizes the dugout and bullpen, and collects broken bats.

When he's done, most everyone has gone. He sits quietly on the stool in front of his locker. When you ask him what he's thinking about, he says, "I'm thinking about getting some sleep. And then doing the whole thing over again." GARY KARTON

Words of Wisdom

THERE WAS A TIME, NOT TOO LONG AGO, when Nationals catcher Brian Schneider was actually nervous to go out to the mound to meet with his pitcher. He was a rookie. Accomplished pitcher Bartolo Colon was on the mound. Colon was struggling and required a visit from his catcher.

“When you come up in the big leagues, you’re young, you’re one of the new guys and you don’t really know what to do,” Schneider recalled. “Now you come up and you’re talking to Bartolo Colon. Here’s a guy you watched on television. You’ve seen him in championship games and in the playoffs and you’re like, ‘I’m not sure what to say to this guy.’”

He doesn’t have that problem anymore. Through experience, talent and a cannon of a right arm, Schneider is regarded by many as the top defensive catcher in the league. Over the last two seasons, nobody has thrown out a higher percentage of would-be base stealers.

“It’s ridiculous,” fellow catcher Gary Bennett said of Schneider’s nearly 50 percent success rate in throwing out of base stealers. “It just doesn’t happen.”

With quick feet and near perfect technique, Schneider is just as proficient at blocking pitches, and last year he set a franchise record for fielding percentage (.998) as a catcher.

“You can throw a pitch right in the dirt and you’re not worried about it, because he’ll block it,” said starter Tony Armas Jr., who’s teamed with Schneider since 1998. “It’s a great, great thing.”

BUT EVEN WITH ALL his physical tools, it’s Schneider’s ability to relate to the pitchers, gain their confidence and know exactly what to say that he takes most pride in.

“Being quiet and being in the back is just not going to get you real far,” Schneider said.

So instead, he takes charge, adjusting his approach to fit the personality of each pitcher. For reliever Luis

Ayala, confidence is most important. “After a hit or home run, he’ll say, ‘Hey, we’re going to come back. This game is not over. We have two more innings,’” Ayala said.

For starter John Patterson, compassion is critical. “He knows that I’m tough on myself, so he really tries to get me to relax,” said Patterson. “He’ll say, ‘Just focus on the next pitch, let that other stuff go and give me a nice pitch right here.’”

For closer Chad Cordero, it’s more casual. “When he comes out, he kind of talks the way I talk. He’ll say, ‘What’s up, dawg? What do you want to do here?’”

Though he’s different things to different pitchers on the mound, he’s universally trusted and respected by the staff for his experience, his dedication and most of all his judgment.

“I never shake. Never,” said reliever Jon Rauch. “I have that much faith in his knowledge of the game, his knowledge of the hitters and knowing the situation. He’s by far, the best defensive catcher around.”

AND THAT’S ENOUGH for Manager Frank Robinson, who said he doesn’t even worry about Schneider’s offense

because he’s so proficient behind the plate. Still, hitting coach Tom McCraw believes Schneider, who’s now hitting .238 with two home runs and 11 RBI but batted .413 during an eight-game hitting streak earlier in the season, will continue to improve with the bat.

In the meantime, Schneider continues to dominate behind the plate. And if he sees something wrong, there’s no hesitation.

“He knows what you’re thinking out there,” said Armas. “And he knows just what to say.”

GARY KARTON



Brian Schneider forces out the San Francisco Giants' Edgardo Alfonzo in a game on May 7.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/JAP



YR	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
'04	436	40	112	20	3	12	49	0	1	42	.257	.325	.399	.724
'05	122	12	29	9	1	2	11	1	0	9	.238	.299	.377	.676

Trouble Closing

(Kolb's struggles force Braves to alter their bullpen strategy)

THE ATLANTA BRAVES are facing mounting question marks about their pitching staff as they further their quest to win a 14th straight division title.

There is some uncertainty in the bullpen, largely because of deposed closer Dan Kolb. As a closer for the first month and a half of the season, he lost four times and blew three save chances, prompting manager Bobby Cox to move the right-hander into middle relief.

On top of that, starting pitcher John Thomson will miss up to three months because of an injured finger, depriving the team of one of its most effective presences on the mound.

Thomson won't need surgery, but it will be at least a month before he can begin rehabbing from a rare injury to his right middle finger. He has a partial tear to the area around the tendon flexor.

Even with the problems, General Manager John Schuerholz is convinced the Braves are still on course to win another division championship.

"I'm not concerned about our team at all," Schuerholz said. "We will right the ship, as we've always done. We're going through some



Former Braves closer Dan Kolb takes out his frustrations on this unsuspecting water cooler.

the last three years.

To that end, Kolb was acquired from Milwaukee, coming off a breakthrough season in which he had 39 saves and made the All-Star team. But he's struggled for the Braves, finally forcing the change.

Cox wants Kolb to use his time in middle relief to work with pitching coach Leo Mazzone — without the burden of trying to protect ninth-inning leads. "He needs to get his control a little bit better and a pitch or two better," Cox said. "He's got them, but he hasn't been throwing them."

Kolb's numbers are abysmal: In 18 2/3 innings, he's allowed 22 hits, given up 13 runs and walked 17. That last number is especially troubling,

because Kolb already has surpassed the number of walks (15 in 57 1/3 innings) he had all of last season for the Brewers.

"He has to get his control back," Cox said. "He has a good slider and curveball. He just has to get the confidence in throwing them again." PAUL NEWBERRY (AP)

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Atlanta Braves | ACTIVE ROSTER



18 R. Langerhans

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.197	5	14	.266



25 Andruw Jones

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.269	11	28	.335



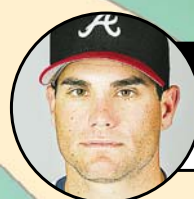
43 Raul Mondesi

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.216	4	17	.272



1 Rafael Furcal

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.216	3	20	.267



22 Marcus Giles

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.287	2	10	.337



10 Chipper Jones

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.331	7	23	.464



19 Adam LaRoche

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.232	1	9	.313

BENCH

	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
24 Wilson Betemit, INF	.282	1	2	.417
14 Julio Franco, 1B	.218	1	5	.265
4 Pete Orr, UTIL	.305	1	5	.339
8 Brayan Pena, C	.250	0	0	.250



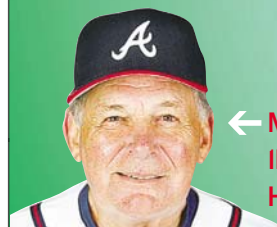
23 Johnny Estrada

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.265	1	23	.320

OUTSIDE THE LINES

The Braves are still managing to stay competitive in the NL East race, despite a banged-up pitching staff:

- At his home debut last week against the Mets, **Kyle Davies** threw five scoreless innings, then was hit in the ribs by a line drive and left the game.
- **Mike Hampton** is on the disabled list with a forearm injury.
- **John Thomson** joins him on the DL, out with a hurt finger.



← **Manager** Bobby Cox
1B Coach Glenn Hubbard
Hitting Coach Terry Pendleton

Bench Coach Pat Corrales
Pitching Coach Leo Mazzone
3B Coach Fredi Gonzalez

Starting Pitchers

15 Tim Hudson

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
5-3	3.05	41	1.40



John Smoltz | 29

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
3-3	2.61	49	1.32

Horatio Ramirez | 30

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
3-3	4.75	17	1.42

The Bullpen

50 Adam Bernero

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
3-0	2.42	21	1.12



Roman Colon | 40

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	8.10	11	1.43

37 Chris Reitsma

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-2	4.18	15	1.10

Jorge Sosa | 34

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-0	3.12	12	1.62

49 Kevin Gryboski

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	1.29	4	1.43

Danny Kolb | 51

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-4	6.27	16	2.09

John Foster | 46

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	8	.78

26 Matt Childers

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	3.00	0	1.33

Team Leaders

→ BAT AVG.

C. Jones, .331
P. Orr, .305
M. Giles, .287
W. Betemit, .282
A. Jones, .269

→ ERA

K. Davies, 0.00
J. Foster, 0.00
K. Gryboski, 1.29
M. Hampton, 1.96
A. Bernero, 2.42

→ HITS

M. Giles, 45
A. Jones, 45
R. Furcal, 41
C. Jones, 40
J. Estrada, 36

→ STRIKE OUTS

J. Smoltz, 49
T. Hudson, 41
J. Thomson, 32
M. Hampton, 21
A. Bernero, 21

→ RBI

A. Jones, 28
A. LaRoche, 27
J. Estrada, 23
C. Jones, 23
R. Furcal, 20

→ WINS

T. Hudson, 5
M. Hampton, 4
A. Bernero, 3
J. Smoltz, 3
J. Thomson, 3

(Keys to the Series) Braves Await Singles Nights

THE MESSAGE BOARD SAYS IT ALL.

"Why does [Rafael] Furcal think he is a power hitter?" an angry fan wrote on the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Web site. "Isn't it the job of a leadoff man to get on base, so others can drive him in?"

"Someone needs to give [Marcus] Giles antibiotics for whatever Furcal's infected him with."

Everyone remembers the solid single. It's what you were happy with when you couldn't hit a home run in little league or Wednesday-night softball.

But when you're at the top of the order, it's all about getting on base. Unfortunately for the Braves, Furcal was hitting just .214 through May 23. That includes a dismal 10-game stretch for the shortstop in mid-May where he hit just .103.

Giles (who was playing through back spasms

last week) hit just .190 over the same period. And the second baseman, who hit 21 homers and 49 doubles in 2003, had just two home runs through his first 149 at-bats this season.

It's doubtful Nationals pitchers will mind if the top of Atlanta's lineup keeps trying to go deep this weekend. It's a long way to the fences at RFK.

CONSIDER THIS: The difference between Barry Bonds and Andruw Jones is less than you think.

Sure, Bonds' magically expanding head sets him apart. But if you compare their first nine years in the majors, you'll find statistical similarities.

Through 1994—Bonds' ninth year in the big leagues—the slugger had belted 259 home runs, driven in 761 and posted a cumulative .285 average.

Through 2004—Jones' ninth year—the center fielder had more RBIs (766), nearly as many home runs (250) and is within 20 points in batting average at .268. And Jones has been narrowing that average gap this season. He cranked it up as the weather got warmer, going 27 for 63 between April 27 and May 17.

ACHING ARMS: Two of the Braves' top four starters have battled injuries of late. John Thomson, who went on the disabled list May 18 with a swollen right middle finger, will miss Atlanta's series with the Nationals. Hurler Mike Hampton left his May 14 start in Los Angeles in the third inning with a stiff forearm and was eventually placed on the disabled list with a strained left forearm. Atlanta called up rookie Kyle Davies to fill the void. ERIC BRANDNER



LENNY IGNEZLI/AP

Oldie But Goodie

(At 38, the Braves' John Smoltz isn't over the hill — he's still climbing it)

DON'T COUNT OUT THE OLD GUY. Roger Clemens, Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson have all produced memorable seasons while perched on the doorstep of 40, the age where most pitchers start taking in games from a skybox instead of the dugout.

John Smoltz wants to be on that list, too.

The bearded face of Atlanta's '90s pitching dominance found another way to contribute in the new millennium, racking up 144 saves over the last three seasons.

"That's where we needed him then," Braves General Manager John Schuerholz said. "We had to have him in that role. [But in 2005] we decided to reconstruct our team with an emphasis on strong starting pitching."

AT AGE 38, the 17-year veteran is climbing the hill as a starter once again, and getting the job done against guys who were in grade school when he won his first World Series.

Smoltz never wanted to go to the bullpen. He tore the medial collateral ligament in his right elbow before the 2000 season and didn't get back on the mound until mid 2001. The Braves moved him to the bullpen after a string of rough comeback starts that season, and he recorded the first 11 of his 168 career saves down the stretch.

Now, five springs removed from Tommy John surgery, the winningest pitcher in post-season history (14-4) is back in the rotation — and thriving.

Smoltz went 3-3 with a 2.61 ERA in his first 10 outings of the season. Throw out his ghastly first start of 2005 — where he sur-

rendered six runs in 1 2/3 innings at Florida — and his ERA is just 1.79 over that span. That includes a team record-tying 15 strikeout performance April 10 against the Mets.

"Nothing John Smoltz does surprises us," Schuerholz said. "He's the best athlete on the team."

While his performance has been excellent news for an Atlanta staff riddled with injuries, Smoltz's departure from the bullpen has created a new problem for the defending National League East champs.

WHILE SMOLTZ has always thrived under pressure, Dan Kolb has struggled finishing games.

The situation is best exemplified by the Braves' May 11 contest in Colorado. Smoltz threw eight strong innings that day, and Atlanta rallied to take a 5-3 lead in the top of the ninth.

Braves manager Bobby Cox then handed the ball to Kolb to get the final three outs. But Kolb subsequently gave up a home run to the Rockies' Dustan Mohr before loading the bases. Two batters later, Braves reliever Chris Reitsma surrendered the game-winning base hit to Colorado's Todd Greene. It was one of three blown saves in Kolb's first 14 attempts this season, and a big reason why Cox recently announced he was going with a bullpen by committee.

Kolb, acquired from Milwaukee in the off-season, has alluded to the increased pressure of saving games in Atlanta. But Schuerholz says he's still happy he brought the sinker-ball to town.

"I still am [confident in Kolb]," Schuerholz said. "He's obviously having a tough time of it right now. But it's [early in the season]."

"The expectations here are higher than most every place in baseball. It takes some acclimation for players to get used to that."

And according to Schuerholz, Kolb doesn't need to be looking over his shoulder at Smoltz, either.


He doesn't see Smoltz moving back to the bullpen, he said. "We need him as a starter."

ERIC BRANDNER

YR	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	SO	SV	BB	HBP
'03	0	2	1.12	63	64.1	48	9	8	73	45	8	0
'04	0	1	2.76	73	81.2	75	25	25	85	44	13	0
'05	3	3	2.61	10	62	63	22	18	49	0	19	0

Team:																	vs																																																		
Date:																	Start Time:																	End Time:																	Time of Game:																
Scorer:																																																																			
#	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	E																																																		
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S	Runs												T O T A L S																																																						
U	Hits												AB:		RBI:																																																				
M	Errors												R:		E:																																																				
S	Left on Base												H:		LOB:																																																				
Pitcher	W-L	IP	H	P	ER	BB	SO	HB	BK	WP	TBF	Catcher					PB																																																		



		Team: <i>Washington Nationals</i> vs																
		Date:				Start Time:				End Time:				Time of Game:				
		Scorer:																
#	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	E	
			◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						
S	Runs												T O T A L S					
U	Hits												AB:		RBI:			
M	Errors												R:		E:			
S	Left on Base												H:		LOB:			
Pitcher		W-L	IP	H	P	ER	BB	SO	HB	BK	WP	TBF	Catcher				PB	

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AL BEHRMAN/AP

Riding on The D-Train

(Marlins' Dontrelle Willis is on a roll, but can the erratic hurler sustain this pace?)

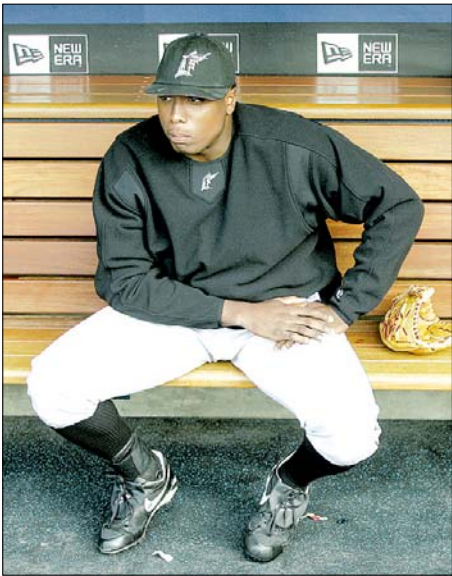
BODY WRENCHING and right leg reaching for the sky, Dontrelle Willis looked more like a contortionist than a pitcher. An instant later, the 23-year-old southpaw released all that torque — and with necklace flying — blew a 95 mph fastball by Houston's Mike Lamb for strike three, ending the eighth inning. It was one of the fastest pitches he threw all night. The 6-foot-4 hurler spun off the mound, yelled at no one in particular and pumped his left fist in the air as 21,789 Marlins fans at Dolphins Stadium jumped to their feet and celebrated with him. Top that, Cirque du Soleil.

WILLIS' 2-1 OUTDUELING of Roy Oswalt on May 11 in Miami was a gem for sure. But it arguably wasn't even the best game he's pitched this season.

Willis, who already owns a World Series ring and has made an All-Star appearance, started 2005 with back-to-back shutouts, including a five-hitter against the Nationals on April 8.

As of May 24, the "D-Train" led the NL in wins (8), and was second in ERA among N.L. starters (1.55). Even the worst of his first nine starts — a six-inning effort May 17 in Los Angeles where he surrendered three earned runs — would send most pitchers home happy. "[Willis] brings positive energy," teammate Carlos Delgado told MLB.com. "He's out there and he works hard and fast. He keeps the infield in the game because he works so quick. You've got to be on your toes all the time. Got to be ready. I can't really explain it, but he seems to have it."

Willis is on pace to set career-best marks in nearly every statistical category. He'd already matched a personal-best two complete games through May 24, and at this pace, he'll be close to matching his 2003 mark of



DANNY MOLOSHOK/AP

YR	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	SO	SV	BB	HBP
'03	14	6	3.30	27	160.2	148	61	59	142	0	58	3
'04	10	11	4.02	32	197	210	99	88	139	0	61	8
'05	8	1	1.55	9	64	64	13	11	50	0	13	1

14 wins by the All-Star break. But Willis has never been a pace kind of guy.

EVEN GLASS-HALF-FULL Marlins fans have to wonder if his next outing is the one where it all goes sour for a while. In 2003, Willis got off to a blazing start, compiling a 9-1 record with a 2.08 ERA at the All-Star break. He was the talk of the league then, too, and became the youngest pitcher since Dwight Gooden in 1985 to receive an invitation to the Midsummer Classic. But the second half of 2003 was a completely different story. Willis went a very ordinary 5-5 after the break, including a 0-4 stretch from Aug. 11 through Sept. 2. He had just as erratic a postseason, too. He gave up 12 runs in four NL Division and Championship series appearances before locking down the Yankees with three shutout relief appearances in the World Series. His sophomore season featured more ups and downs. He went 10-11 and the Marlins won 15 of the 32 games he started. He had a 2.36 ERA in those 15 victories and a 5.71 ERA in the losses.

So far this season, Willis is back to channeling the success of his rookie year, using his wicked slider and disarming throwing motion to keep hitters off balance. And his teammates are keeping their fingers crossed that he'll stick to that script for the rest of the season. ERIC BRANDNER

Florida Marlins | ACTIVE ROSTER



24 Miguel Cabrera

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.365	9	31	.409



9 Juan Pierre

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.260	1	12	.321



43 J. Encarnacion

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.260	6	33	.355



11 Alex Gonzalez

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.276	3	17	.333



1 Luis Castillo

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.302	0	7	.423



19 Mike Lowell

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.205	2	18	.247



25 Carlos Delgado

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.312	7	29	.396

BENCH

	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
18 Jeff Conine , UTIL	.319	0	1	.407
12 Joe Dillon , INF	.375	1	1	.444
2 Damion Easley , INF	.255	6	16	.304
10 Lenny Harris , INF	.368	0	1	.400
6 Matt Treanor , C	.294	0	3	.400



16 Paul Lo Duca

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.301	2	20	.369



← **Manager** Jack McKeon
1B Coach Perry Hill
Hitting Coach Bill Robinson

Bench Coach Harry Dunlop
Pitching Coach Mark Wiley
3B Coach Jeff Cox

OUTSIDE THE LINES

The Marlins' success this season has had much to do with the superb hitting they've gotten from the bench:

- Four of their bench players have higher than a .400 on-base percentage. Three of those have a batting average over .300.
- Reserve infielder **Damion Easley's** six home runs is third on the team.
- Easley and catcher **Matt Treanor** have started recently due to injuries.

Starting Pitchers

35 | Dontrelle Willis

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
8-1	1.55	50	.95



21 Josh Beckett

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
6-3	2.63	63	1.20

AI Leiter | 22

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-5	6.91	23	1.70

Brian Moehler | 35

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-1	2.13	22	1.25

Frank Castillo | 37

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	10.38	4	2.76

The Bullpen

Nate Bump | 40

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	2.91	10	1.11



Todd Jones | 50

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	1.31	15	1.21

41 | John Riedling

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-0	5.56	6	1.15

46 | Matt Perisho

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-0	1.64	8	1.45

Jim Mecir | 45

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	4.96	14	1.53

Guillermo Mota | 49

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	1.86	7	1.34

Team Leaders

→ BAT AVG.

J. Dillon, .375
L. Harris, .368
M. Cabrera, .365
J. Conine, .319
C. Delgado, .312

→ ERA

T. Jones, 1.31
D. Willis, 1.55
Alfonseca, 1.59
M. Perisho, 1.64
G. Mota, 1.86

→ HITS

M. Cabrera, 58
C. Delgado, 49
J. Pierre, 45
P. Lo Duca, 41
Encarnacion, 39

→ STRIKE OUTS

J. Beckett, 63
A. Burnett, 62
D. Willis, 50
A. Leiter, 23
B. Moehler, 22

→ RBI

Encarnacion, 33
M. Cabrera, 31
C. Delgado, 29
P. Lo Duca, 20
M. Lowell, 18

→ WINS

D. Willis, 8
J. Beckett, 6
A. Burnett, 3
A. Leiter, 2
B. Moehler, 2

(Keys to the Series) An About-Face From Lowell?

JUST WHEN THINGS LOOKED LIKE

they couldn't get any worse for Mike Lowell, he took a shot in the face.

The blow wasn't delivered by a teammate angry with Lowell's lack of production, but instead came courtesy of a pop-up the three-time All Star third baseman lost in the sun on May 18 in Los Angeles.

Call it the People en Español jinx.

Lowell, a Puerto Rican native and the only major league baseball player to make People en Español's 50 most beautiful list, is having one ugly season. He entered last week hitting a dismal .194 with just two home runs and 16 RBIs.

While Nationals pitchers are hoping Lowell's string of bad luck continues — specifically at the plate — they'll be racking their brains trying to fig-

ure out a way to stop Miguel Cabrera.

The Marlins' left fielder, who actually filled in for the struggling Lowell at third base twice this season, was leading the NL in batting average entering last week. Cabrera was also on pace to become just the second Marlin to hit over .400 in one month. Current Colorado outfielder Preston Wilson hit .431 for the Marlins in July of 1999.

ACHING INFELD, BATTERED BULLPEN: While Lowell's facial contusion may threaten his inclusion in next year's People en Español list, it's the least of the Marlins' injury worries. After all, he didn't miss a game. The same can't be said for Florida's double-play combination of second baseman Luis Castillo and shortstop Alex Gonzalez.

Castillo missed two weeks of action with a left quadriceps strain before returning to the lineup May 20, the same day Gonzalez was sidelined with pink eye. Both are projected to be ready for the Nationals series.

The Marlins relievers aren't in as good shape. Set-up man Guillermo Mota has been out since May 1 with an inflamed right elbow, while fellow reliever Antonio Alfonseca has been on the disabled list since April 21 with a stress fracture in his right elbow.

OVER AFTER EIGHT: Don't expect any ninth-inning heroics this series. The Marlins are 24-0 when leading after eight innings, and 0-15 when trailing heading into their last at-bat. ERIC BRANDNER

Washington Nationals | HITTING

PLAYER	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Nick Johnson	167	25	52	9	1	7	25	27	35	2	.311	.422	.503	.925
Jose Guillen	170	27	51	12	1	10	27	6	31	0	.300	.335	.559	.894
Ryan Church	97	14	29	4	0	3	15	7	21	0	.299	.346	.433	.779
Jose Vidro	100	17	29	6	2	4	15	13	11	0	.290	.365	.510	.875
V. Castilla	154	21	44	14	1	4	25	18	19	3	.286	.364	.468	.832
Tomo Ohka	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	.286	.286	.286	.571
B. Wilkerson	178	23	49	17	2	3	17	18	51	3	.275	.348	.444	.792
Jamey Carroll	91	14	25	2	1	0	4	10	15	1	.275	.343	.319	.662
Tony Blanco	28	3	7	2	0	1	5	0	7	1	.250	.276	.429	.704
T. Sledge	37	7	9	0	1	1	8	7	8	2	.243	.348	.378	.726

ProFile Jamey Carroll

AGE: 31 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 5-9 WT: 170 YRS: 3

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	105	227	31	59	1	10	5	39	.260	.326
'04	102	218	36	63	0	16	5	21	.289	.372
'05	30	91	14	25	0	4	1	15	.275	.319



Gary Bennett	50	4	12	4	0	0	7	3	8	0	.240	.286	.320	.606
B. Schneider	122	12	29	9	1	2	11	9	16	1	.238	.299	.377	.676
Carlos Baerga	34	3	8	1	0	0	4	1	3	0	.235	.278	.265	.542
L. Hernandez	26	2	6	1	0	1	2	0	3	0	.231	.259	.385	.644
J.J. Davis	26	0	6	0	0	0	2	2	7	1	.231	.286	.231	.516
J. Hammonds	32	3	7	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	.219	.286	.250	.536
C. Guzman	157	9	29	3	1	1	6	9	28	1	.185	.228	.236	.463
E. Loaiza	23	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	.174	.174	.174	.348
Zach Day	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	.125	.125	.125	.250
J. Patterson	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	.083	.083	.167	.250

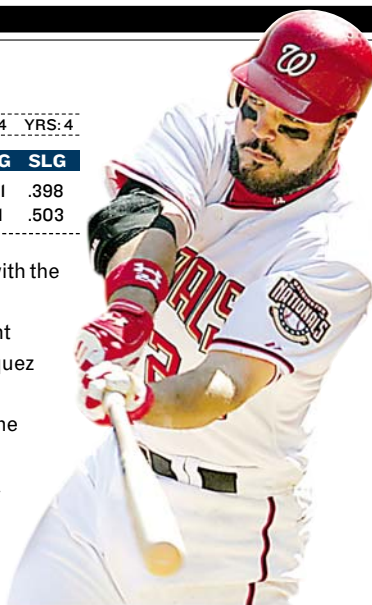
ProFile

Nick Johnson

AGE: 26 BAT: L THROW: L HT: 6-3 WT: 224 YRS: 4

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	K	AVG	SLG
'04	73	251	35	63	7	33	58	.251	.398
'05	46	167	25	52	7	31	35	.311	.503

- Went 2-4 in his major league debut with the New York Yankees on Aug. 21, 2001.
- Part of the blockbuster trade that sent Montreal Expos star pitcher Javier Vazquez to the Yankees.
- Began the 2005 season with a 16-game hitting streak.
- Is the nephew of former Philadelphia Phillies manager and player Larry Bowa.



National League | HITTING

PLAYER	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Miguel Cabrera	161	33	58	12	0	9								
Clint Barmes	185	34	63	12	1	7								
Cesar Izturis	197	30	67	10	1	1								
Derrek Lee	162	31	55	13	0	12								
Bobby Abreu	171	32	57	9	0	12								
Brady Clark	196	37	65	10	0	6								
Albert Pujols	184	33	61	15	0	11								
Chipper Jones	121	27	40	13	0	7								
Edgardo Alfonzo	159	21	52	11	0	2								
M. Grudzielanek	159	27	51	13	2	3								
David Wright	156	27	49	14	0	8								
Carlos Delgado	160	26	50	15	0	8								
Sean Casey	170	19	53	14	0	2								
Pat Burrell	Phi	16	48	7	0	9								
Nick Johnson	167	25	52	9	1	7								
Craig Counsell	158	26	49	14	0	2								
Lyle Overbay	130	19	40	11	0	7								
Milton Bradley	176	33	54	8	1	10								
Luis Gonzalez	174	32	53	11	0	6								
R. Hernandez	158	20	48	9	1	5								
Mark Loretta	160	24	48	5	1	0								
Jose Guillen	170	27	51	12	1	10								
Carlos Beltran	170	24	51	10	0	6								
David Eckstein	177	24	53	8	1	2								
Paul Lo Duca	137	17	41	6	1	2								
Craig Biggio	171	29	51	15	1	8								

ProFile

Milton Bradley

AGE: 27 BAT: S THROW: R HT: 6-0 WT: 190 YRS: 5

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR
'03	101	377	61	121	10
'04	141	516	72	138	19
'05	45	176	33	54	10

YR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	56	17	73	.321	.501
'04	67	15	123	.267	.424
'05	25	5	30	.307	.534



RBI	SB	CS	BB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
31	0	0	15	.360	.408	.602	1.010
27	4	4	8	.341	.384	.530	.914
19	3	5	12	.340	.384	.416	.800
39	8	1	27	.340	.434	.642	1.076
36	13	1	37	.333	.455	.596	1.052
22	4	7	14	.332	.396	.474	.871
39	2	0	19	.332	.404	.592	.996
23	1	0	30	.331	.464	.612	1.075
25	1	0	18	.327	.397	.434	.831
18	2	0	10	.321	.370	.484	.854
28	3	2	24	.314	.412	.558	.970
30	0	0	17	.313	.395	.556	.951
21	1	0	14	.312	.364	.429	.793
39	0	0	25	.312	.405	.532	.938
25	2	3	27	.311	.422	.503	.925
15	9	2	27	.310	.419	.437	.856
26	0	0	35	.308	.456	.554	1.009
25	5	1	11	.307	.349	.534	.883
31	2	0	29	.305	.401	.471	.872
27	1	0	10	.304	.343	.468	.812
13	6	3	19	.300	.388	.344	.732
27	0	0	6	.300	.335	.559	.894
25	1	2	14	.300	.349	.465	.814
15	4	3	17	.299	.368	.390	.758
20	2	3	15	.299	.367	.401	.769
23	4	1	10	.298	.355	.538	.893

American League | HITTING

PLAYER	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Brian Roberts	183	36	69	11	4	11	33	13	2	26	.377	.460	.661	1.121
Carlos Guillen	150	23	55	7	4	2	12	1	1	13	.367	.421	.507	.927
Johnny Damon	188	38	64	11	3	1	23	5	1	19	.340	.397	.447	.844
S. Hillenbrand	183	35	61	8	1	5	24	1	0	7	.333	.380	.470	.850
Jason Varitek	143	24	47	7	1	9	17	0	0	12	.329	.389	.580	.969
Ichiro Suzuki	188	33	61	7	5	3	15	15	4	16	.324	.376	.463	.838
Alex Rodriguez	179	43	58	9	0	17	49	4	3	27	.324	.421	.659	1.080
Miguel Tejada	189	30	61	13	1	12	42	0	1	10	.323	.361	.593	.954
Gary Sheffield	173	29	55	12	0	7	32	6	1	27	.318	.407	.509	.916
Mike Sweeney	165	19	52	13	0	9	34	2	0	12	.315	.361	.558	.919
Rondell White	154	17	48	9	2	4	21	1	0	5	.312	.335	.474	.809
Joe Mauer	132	18	41	5	0	4	17	2	1	20	.311	.396	.439	.835
Brandon Inge	174	28	54	8	5	4	21	3	1	25	.310	.395	.483	.878
Trot Nixon	126	24	39	7	0	6	26	0	0	23	.310	.409	.508	.917
Melvin Mora	187	32	57	12	0	10	27	6	1	10	.305	.355	.529	.884
Derek Jeter	185	33	56	7	1	4	19	7	3	25	.303	.394	.416	.810
V. Guerrero	152	24	46	10	1	7	24	5	0	11	.303	.361	.520	.881
Tadahito Iguchi	159	20	48	8	1	4	23	7	3	11	.302	.347	.440	.787
Kevin Mench	137	25	41	12	2	7	20	0	2	11	.299	.364	.569	.934
Garret Anderson	171	19	50	9	0	4	33	0	0	6	.292	.313	.415	.728
Alex Rios	161	27	47	8	5	2	22	5	4	10	.292	.328	.441	.769
Bill Mueller	127	20	37	7	0	2	15	0	0	22	.291	.413	.394	.807
Jorge Posada	148	19	43	7	0	7	28	1	0	19	.291	.367	.480	.847
Mark Kotsay	184	23	53	9	1	2	22	1	2	15	.288	.343	.380	.724
Eric Hinske	153	31	44	10	1	6	25	5	1	16	.288	.360	.484	.844
Mark Teixeira	193	34	55	11	0	11	30	1	0	15	.285	.346	.513	.859
David Dellucci	113	34	32	4	3	8	20	4	1	38	.283	.468	.584	1.052

ProFile

Melvin Mora

AGE: 33 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 5-11 WT: 202 YRS: 6

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR
'03	96	304	68	109	15
'04	140	550	111	187	27
'05	46	187	32	57	10

YR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	48	6	71	.317	.503
'04	104	11	95	.340	.562
'05	27	6	37	.305	.529



(On the Farm) Broadway Show Closes With Injury

"BREAK-A-LEG" has long been a good luck saying for show folk, but "strain-a-knee" was not good luck for Nationals first base prospect Larry Broadway.

Things have not gone well for Broadway in 2005. Appearing in just 17 games at Triple-A, he was hitting .193 with no homers when he went on the disabled list with the strained knee.

The 24-year-old, marketing major out of Duke and the son of a retired Miami Florida fire chief was taken in the third round of the 2002 draft. Broadway admits he was given a great baseball name at birth and he never tires of hearing "On

Broadway" or "Nights on Broadway" over a stadium PA.

In 2003 he went from the South Atlantic League to the Florida State League to the Eastern League. He hit .307 in the SAL with 14 homers. In the FSL he only hit .224 with one home run, but he finished the season at Harrisburg hitting .321 with five homers in 21 games. He went to the major league camp in 2004 spring training and continued to put up

Washington Nationals | PITCHING

ProFile Chad Cordero

AGE: 23 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-0 WT: 200 YRS: 2

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	1	0	1.64	12	0	11	4	2	2	12
'04	7	3	2.94	69	0	82.2	68	28	27	83
'05	2	1	0.86	20	0	21	17	5	2	21



PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HBP	BB	SO
C Cordero	2	1	0.86	20	0	10	12	21.0	17	5	2	1	1	8	21
G Majewski	1	0	1.37	16	0	0	0	19.2	14	3	3	0	4	8	8
L Ayala	2	3	2.79	26	0	1	1	29.0	31	11	9	2	1	1	15
J Patterson	2	1	2.98	7	7	0	0	42.1	35	14	14	1	0	17	35
E Loaiza	1	3	3.53	10	10	0	0	66.1	65	26	26	3	1	20	48
L Hernandez	7	2	3.70	11	11	0	0	75.1	75	32	31	4	4	29	50
T Ohka	3	3	3.71	8	7	0	0	43.2	34	19	18	5	0	21	16
J Rauch	1	3	4.00	8	0	0	0	18.0	15	8	8	1	0	7	11
T Armas	1	2	5.49	3	3	0	0	19.2	18	12	12	3	1	6	6
Z Day	1	2	6.75	12	5	0	0	36.0	41	29	27	4	1	25	16
C Vargas	0	3	9.24	4	4	0	0	12.2	22	15	13	4	0	7	5



ProFile Esteban Loaiza

AGE: 33 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-3 WT: 215 YRS: 10

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	21	9	2.90	34	34	226.1	196	75	73	207
'04	10	7	5.71	31	27	183	217	124	116	117
'05	1	3	3.53	10	10	66.1	65	26	26	48

National League | PITCHING

PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG
Roger Clemens	3	2	1.19	10	10	0
Dontrelle Willis	8	1	1.55	9	9	3
Brett Myers	4	2	1.69	10	10	1
Mike Hampton	4	1	1.96	8	8	1
Jake Peavy	5	0	2.00	10	10	1
John Smoltz	3	3	2.61	10	10	0
Josh Beckett	6	3	2.63	10	10	1
Mark Prior	4	1	2.95	8	8	1
Derek Lowe	4	4	3.02	10	10	1
Victor Santos	2	4	3.02	10	9	1
Tim Hudson	5	3	3.05	10	10	0
Chris Capuano	4	3	3.09	10	10	0
Pedro Martinez	4	1	3.14	9	9	1
Mark Redman	3	4	3.15	10	10	2
A.J. Burnett	3	4	3.19	9	9	2
Shawn Chacon	1	4	3.28	8	8	0
Aaron Harang	3	2	3.32	9	9	0
Brad Halsey	3	2	3.34	10	9	0
Roy Oswalt	5	5	3.38	10	10	1
Brandon Webb	6	1	3.39	10	10	0
John Thomson	3	2	3.42	8	8	1
Jason Marquis	5	3	3.43	10	10	0
Adam Eaton	7	1	3.49	10	10	0
Javier Vazquez	5	3	3.49	10	10	2
Esteban Loaiza	1	3	3.53	10	10	0
Shawn Estes	4	3	3.56	9	9	0

ProFile Derek Lowe

AGE: 31 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-6 WT: 210 YRS: 8

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS
'03	17	7	4.47	33	33
'04	14	12	5.42	33	33
'05	4	4	3.02	10	10

YR	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	203.1	216	113	101	110
'04	182.2	224	138	110	105
'05	65.2	65	29	22	47



SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HBP	BB	SO
0	68.0	41	10	9	2	1	19	69
2	64.0	48	13	11	2	1	13	50
0	69.1	46	15	13	7	3	17	74
1	55.0	42	13	12	4	0	14	21
1	72.0	51	17	16	4	1	12	73
0	62.0	63	22	18	3	0	19	49
1	61.2	51	22	18	1	3	23	63
0	55.0	40	20	18	9	1	15	59
1	65.2	65	29	22	5	2	14	47
0	56.2	49	22	19	6	3	20	40
0	65.0	68	24	22	5	2	23	41
0	67.0	57	24	23	7	2	23	51
0	63.0	34	23	22	5	1	12	73
1	65.2	55	24	23	3	0	18	33
0	62.0	54	25	22	5	1	21	62
0	46.2	39	17	17	5	3	25	25
0	59.2	50	22	22	5	3	18	47
0	59.1	66	33	22	8	2	12	33
0	69.1	65	29	26	7	2	18	53
0	69.0	72	29	26	7	1	20	54
0	50.0	49	20	19	2	1	14	32
0	63.0	54	25	24	8	2	25	37
0	59.1	64	28	23	6	2	18	44
1	67.0	67	27	26	5	4	8	63
0	66.1	65	26	26	3	1	20	48
0	55.2	54	23	22	7	1	18	37

American League | PITCHING

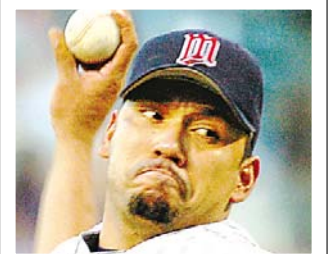
PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HBP	BB	SO
Kenny Rogers	6	2	1.69	10	10	1	1	69.1	62	15	13	1	4	22	24
Erik Bedard	5	1	2.08	9	9	0	0	60.2	49	16	14	3	2	14	52
Bartolo Colon	5	3	2.53	10	10	1	0	67.2	53	24	19	5	0	20	48
Jon Garland	8	1	2.57	9	9	2	2	66.2	58	19	19	3	1	11	31
Roy Halladay	7	2	2.84	10	10	3	1	76.0	66	24	24	7	3	13	49
Carlos Silva	3	2	2.85	8	8	1	0	60.0	68	21	19	5	1	2	21
Nate Robertson	1	3	2.96	8	8	0	0	45.2	45	25	15	2	2	25	22
Mark Buehrle	7	1	3.05	10	10	1	0	76.2	64	28	26	5	0	14	46
Bronson Arroyo	4	1	3.19	9	9	0	0	59.1	50	25	21	4	6	13	32
Kevin Millwood	1	4	3.20	10	10	0	0	59.0	61	22	21	5	2	15	46
Chris Young	4	2	3.22	9	9	0	0	50.1	54	21	18	2	1	14	38
Jose Contreras	2	2	3.30	10	10	0	0	60.0	43	24	22	8	4	24	47
Gustavo Chacin	5	3	3.34	10	10	0	0	59.1	58	23	22	4	4	22	32
Matt Clement	5	0	3.34	10	10	1	0	64.2	62	26	24	2	6	22	47
Mike Mussina	5	2	3.38	10	10	1	1	64.0	71	27	24	4	3	15	44
Freddy Garcia	5	3	3.41	10	10	0	0	68.2	64	27	26	5	1	18	44
J. Bonderman	5	3	3.48	10	10	0	0	67.1	63	27	26	5	2	20	56
Bruce Chen	5	2	3.51	9	9	1	0	59.0	57	26	23	7	1	16	39
Jason Johnson	2	4	3.55	9	9	1	0	58.1	58	24	23	5	2	16	27
C.C. Sabathia	3	3	3.59	8	8	0	0	52.2	51	23	21	5	3	16	38
Cliff Lee	5	2	3.69	9	9	0	0	53.2	52	25	22	6	0	12	34
Carl Pavano	4	2	3.69	10	10	1	1	61.0	73	38	25	11	4	11	37
Jarrod Washburn	3	3	3.73	10	10	0	0	62.2	75	26	26	10	3	17	34
Josh Towers	5	2	3.76	9	9	0	0	52.2	56	24	22	6	1	5	33
Johan Santana	5	2	3.82	10	10	1	0	68.1	59	29	29	8	0	8	83
Brad Radke	4	4	3.84	11	11	2	1	75.0	84	37	32	12	2	3	44
John Lackey	5	2	3.88	10	10	0	0	60.1	62	27	26	5	4	25	55

ProFile Carlos Silva

AGE: 26 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-4 WT: 252 YRS: 3

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS
'03	3	1	4.43	62	1
'04	14	8	4.21	33	33
'05	3	2	2.85	8	8

YR	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	87.1	92	43	43	48
'04	203	255	100	95	76
'05	60	68	21	19	21



ProFile

Tony Armas

AGE: 27 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-3 WT: 225 YRS: 6

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	2	1	2.61	5	5	31	25	9	9	23
'04	2	4	4.88	16	16	72	66	41	39	54
'05	1	2	5.49	3	3	19.2	18	12	12	6

→ The son of former catcher Tony Armas Sr., who played for Pirates, A's, Red Sox and Angels in 14 seasons.

→ Lost his big league debut as an Expo in a 7-4 loss to the San Francisco Giants on Aug. 16, 1999, due to three unearned scoring in the third inning.

→ Led the Expos with 34 starts in 2001. He's made 53 starts since due to injuries.



TOM HOOD/AP

Nationals Archive

1924 | Between burgers and hot dogs, there's always some good food at the ballpark on Memorial Day. Forgive the 1924 Washington Nationals, though, if they preferred rice. >>

Rice a Treat for Washington Fans

Specifically, Sam Rice. Playing the Boston Red Sox in a doubleheader on May 30, Rice smacked three hits in the opener and four in the nightcap as the soon-to-be World Champions split a twin bill in front of 35,000 at Fenway Park.

If that wasn't enough, Rice went 4-for-5 the next day as Washington closed out the three-game set with a 12-0 romp over the Sox. For the series, Rice went 11-for-15 for the Nationals, who did not become the Senators for other 30 years.



Sam Rice hit .733 vs. the Sox.

The only thing to stop Rice when the calendar turned to June was a rain out, the Nats' 12th of the year.

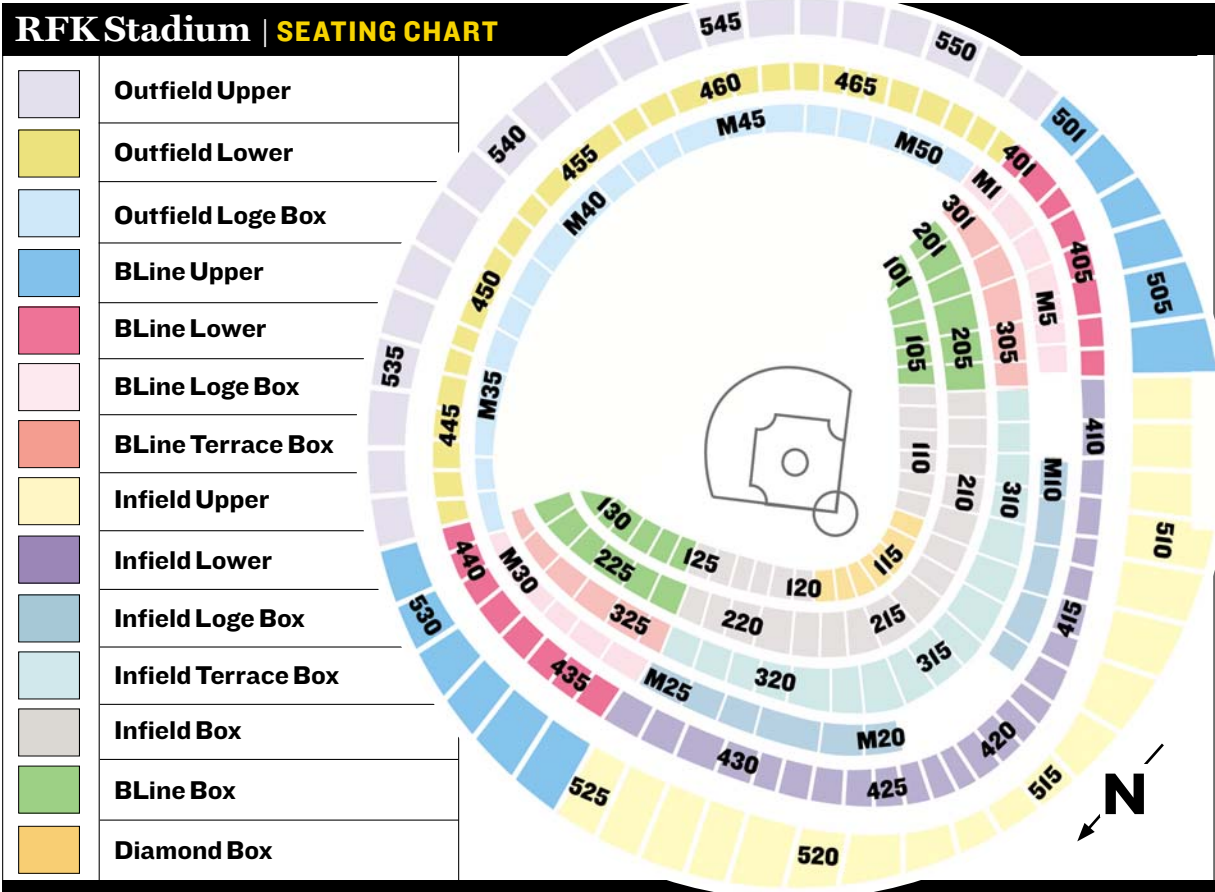
Thanks to two more hits by Rice and strong pitching from Walter Johnson, Washington stayed hot with an 8-3 victory over the Philadelphia A's. The squad won their fourth straight on June 3 with an 11-1 victory over the Tigers in which the Nats improved to 19-19. Against Detroit, each Nationals starter got a hit or scored a run.

A fifth-straight win was at hand

on June 4, but Washington failed to convert with the bases loaded in the ninth. Its penalty: a 6-5 loss in 10 innings to the Tigers in a 2 1/2 hour long game, an epic back then.

A day later, the Nats wasted little time, scoring six runs in the first after a strange call left Roger Peckinpaugh safe at first after he tapped a ball. Warren "Curly" Ogden was the beneficiary in the 9-7 game, as he improved to 3-0 since joining the Nationals after being released by the Philadelphia A's.

MLB STANDINGS											
TEAM		W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	LIO
N.L. EAST	Florida	26	18	.591	--	17-10	9-8	208	166	Lost 2	7-3
	Atlanta	27	19	.587	--	16-5	11-14	219	164	Won 3	5-5
	Washington	24	23	.511	3.5	12-8	12-15	190	207	Lost 3	4-6
	N.Y. Mets	24	24	.500	4	16-9	8-15	223	209	Won 1	5-5
N.L. CENTRAL	Philadelphia	22	26	.458	6	10-10	12-16	210	233	Won 1	6-4
	St. Louis	30	16	.652	--	15-9	15-7	245	195	Won 3	7-3
	Milwaukee	23	23	.500	7	14-9	9-14	207	176	Won 3	5-5
	Chicago Cubs	21	24	.467	8.5	12-12	9-12	190	191	Lost 2	5-5
N.L. WEST	Pittsburgh	20	25	.444	9.5	7-13	13-12	177	199	Won 1	4-6
	Cincinnati	18	29	.383	12.5	13-13	5-16	215	270	Lost 1	4-6
	Houston	16	30	.348	14	13-9	3-21	167	207	Won 1	3-7
	San Diego	28	19	.596	--	16-4	12-15	232	205	Won 1	7-3
A.L. EAST	Arizona	28	20	.583	.5	15-10	13-10	212	238	Lost 1	6-4
	L.A. Dodgers	24	22	.522	3.5	12-11	12-11	225	230	Won 1	3-7
	San Francisco	23	23	.500	4.5	14-12	9-11	207	226	Lost 1	5-5
	Colorado	14	31	.311	13	10-11	4-20	207	261	Won 1	4-6
TEAM		W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	LIO
A.L. EAST	Baltimore	30	16	.652	--	17-11	13-5	247	201	Won 3	7-3
	N.Y. Yankees	26	21	.553	4.5	15-11	11-10	266	233	Won 4	8-2
	Toronto	26	21	.553	4.5	13-10	13-11	234	201	Won 3	7-3
	Boston	25	21	.543	5	13-6	12-15	245	228	Lost 3	3-7
A.L. CENTRAL	Tampa Bay	18	30	.375	13	15-12	3-18	226	278	Won 3	4-6
	Chicago W. Sox	33	15	.688	--	15-6	18-9	213	162	Lost 1	6-4
	Minnesota	27	19	.587	5	14-9	13-10	211	178	Won 1	6-4
	Cleveland	21	25	.457	11	8-13	13-12	180	192	Lost 1	5-5
A.L. WEST	Detroit	20	25	.444	11.5	10-13	10-12	196	193	Lost 4	3-7
	Kansas City	13	34	.277	19.5	7-17	6-17	191	261	Lost 3	3-7
	Texas	27	20	.574	--	15-12	12-8	253	217	Won 6	7-3
	L.A. Angels	27	20	.574	1.5	12-11	15-9	190	177	Won 1	6-4
A.L. WEST	Seattle	18	28	.391	8.5	9-14	9-14	189	215	Lost 3	4-6
	Oakland	17	29	.370	9.5	9-12	8-17	180	242	Lost 5	3-7






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American League HITTING		
RUNS BATTED IN	HOME RUNS	STOLEN BASES
 Rodriguez, NYY, 49 M. Tejada, BAL, 42 M. Ramirez, BOS, 38 R. Sexson, SEA, 37 P. Konerko, CWS, 36	 A. Rodriguez, NYY, 17 T. Martinez, NYY, 12 M. Tejada, BAL, 12 P. Konerko, CWS, 12 R. Sexson, SEA, 12	 Podsednik, CWS, 26 T. Womack, NYY, 15 I. Suzuki, SEA, 15 C. Figgins, LAA, 15 T. Hunter, MIN, 13

American League PITCHING		
WINS	STRIKEOUTS	SAVES
 J. Garland, CWS, 8 R. Halladay, TOR, 7 M. Buehrle, CWS, 7 K. Rogers, TEX, 5 Bonderman, DET, 5	 J. Santana, MIN, 83 Bonderman, DET, 56 J. Lackey, LAA, 55 R. Johnson, NYY, 55 D. Cabrera, BAL, 43	 F. Cordero, TEX, 15 J. Nathan, MIN, 14 B. Ryan, BAL, 14 B. Wickman, CLE, 13 E. Guardado, SEA, 11

National League HITTING		
RUNS BATTED IN	HOME RUNS	STOLEN BASES
 C. Lee, MIL, 43 D. Lee, CHC, 39 P. Burrell, PHI, 39 A. Pujols, STL, 39 B. Abreu, PHI, 36	 T. Glaus, ARI, 13 A. Dunn, CIN, 13 C. Floyd, NYM, 12 B. Abreu, PHI, 12 D. Lee, CHC, 12	 W. Taveras, HOU, 16 R. Furcal, ATL, 14 B. Abreu, PHI, 13 J. Rollins, PHI, 12 R. Freel, CIN, 12

National League PITCHING		
WINS	STRIKEOUTS	SAVES
 D. Willis, FLA, 8 M. Mulder, STL, 7 A. Eaton, SD, 7 C. Carpenter, STL, 7 Hernandez, WAS, 7	 B. Myers, PHI, 74 J. Peavy, SD, 73 P. Martinez, NYM, 73 R. Clemens, HOU, 69 J. Beckett, FLA, 63	 T. Hoffman, SD, 14 J. Mesa, PIT, 13 B. Lyon, ARI, 13 I. Sringhausen, STL, 12 B. Wagner, PHI, 11

The Agony Of Defeat

When we last saw the Nationals at RFK, they were a fiery, competitive team were hanging with Atlanta and Florida in the tough NL East.

Well, that was nice while it lasted. This past road trip was brutal. Not just because the team lost five of its first six games heading into their series in St. Louis. More devastating are all the injuries that kept cropping up. Ten Nationals are now on disabled list. Ten! That's enough to play a whole game with. It's not just reserves who are down, either. Jose Vidro's an All-Star and John Patterson sure looked liked one until the second week of May.

And some of those who are still playing aren't at 100 percent. Brad Wilkerson's nicked up, and Cristian Guzman already faced a hamstring problem (does that explain why he can't hit?). It was just a matter of time before a slump would set it. But should we despair? Not quite yet.

If nothing else, the Nats have proven they're not quitters. Just look at how they've played all year. They almost never score in the first few innings, but somehow find a way to pull out comeback victories. There's also Manager Frank Robinson, who's got the team playing really sound baseball. They don't make a lot of errors and generally know what to do when running the base path. There aren't enough fundamentally sound teams out there to keep the Nats down for long. It will be interesting to see how the Nats fare against the Braves



Terrmel Sledge, among the Nationals' walking wounded, is out for the season

and Marlins this week. A few wins could lift their spirits in a hurry — and make up some of that lost ground against the division's best teams. The sense is Washington will probably manage to stay even with Atlanta and Florida, and then do well the following week against the Oakland A's and Seattle Mariners, who won't know what to do without a designated hitter. This magical season's going to last a little bit longer, and hopefully through September. Eighty-five wins still seems doable, assuming there's still a team left to the field at the end of the season. MATT SWENSON

Nationals Agenda

2005 SCHEDULE

- Home Games Shaded
- 76th Annual All Star Game, July 12 at Comerica Park, Detroit

May						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NYM	LAD	LAD	LAD	SD	SD	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SF	AZ	AZ	AZ	CHC	CHC	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CHC	MIL	MIL	MIL	MIL	TOR	TOR
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
TOR	CIN	CIN	CIN	STL	STL	
29	30	31				
STL	ATL	ATL				

June						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			ATL	ATL	FLA	FLA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
FLA		OAK	OAK	OAK	SEA	SEA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SEA	LAA	LAA	LAA	TEX	TEX	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
TEX	PIT	PIT	PIT	TOR	TOR	
26	27	28	29	30		
TOR		PIT	PIT	PIT		


April						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	PHI		PHI	PHI	FLA	FLA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
FLA	ATL	ATL	ATL	AZ		AZ
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AZ	FLA	FLA	ATL	ATL	NYM	NYM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NYM	PHI	PHI	PHI		NYM	NYM

July						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
					CHC	CHC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CHC	NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM	PHI	PHI
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
PHI				MIL	MIL	MIL
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MIL	COL	COL	COL	HOU	HOU	HOU
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HOU		ATL	ATL	ATL	FLA	FLA
31	FLA					

August						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		LAD	LAD	LAD	SD	SD
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
SD		HOU	HOU	HOU	COL	COL
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
COL	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	NYM	NYM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NYM		CIN	CIN	CIN	STL	STL
28	29	30	31			
STL	ATL	ATL	ATL			

September						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
				ATL	PHI	PHI
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PHI	FLA	FLA	FLA	FLA	ATL	ATL
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ATL		NYM	NYM	NYM	SD	SD
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SD		SF	SF	SF	NYM	NYM
25	26	27	28	29	30	
NYM	FLA	FLA	FLA		PHI	

October						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
						PHI
2						
PHI						

 Schedule subject to change



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